

Application No. 09/939,412
Amendment dated March 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 25, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A bone plate assembly, comprising:

a bone plate including first and second extending portions defining an angle therebetween, each of said first and second portions having at least one hole therein; and

a screw extending through a said hole in one of said first and second portions, said screw threadingly engaging another said hole in the other of said first and second portions, wherein said screw spans said angle between said first and second portions.

Claim 2 (original): The bone plate assembly of Claim 1, wherein said first and second portions are placed in slight compression by said threaded engagement between said screw and said hole in said second portion.

Claim 3 (original): The bone plate assembly of Claim 1, wherein said first portion is an elongate plate portion having a plurality of said holes therein, and said second portion is an elongate blade portion.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The bone plate assembly of Claim 3, wherein said screw extends through one of said plurality of holes in said plate portion, and engages said at least one hole in said blade portion, wherein said screw extends through said plate portion to engage said at least one hole in said blade portion.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The bone plate assembly of Claim 4, wherein said at least one hole in said blade portion includes a ledge about at least a portion of the periphery thereof, said screw threadingly engaging said ledge.

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Claim 6 (previously presented): A bone plate, comprising:

a plate portion and a substantially straight blade portion extending from one another at an angle and connected to one another at a bend, said blade portion including a blade end opposite said angle, said blade end having a blade edge, said bend having a radius defined intermediate said plate portion and said blade portion, said radius dimensioned such that, with said plate portion resting against an outer surface of a bone and said blade portion extending into the bone, said radius fits closely adjacent the outside surface of the bone.

Claim 7 (original): The bone plate of Claim 6, wherein said radius is about 0.25 inches or less.

Claim 8-12 (canceled):

Claim 13 (currently amended): A bone plate assembly, comprising:

a bone plate having elongate plate and blade portions connected to one another at a bend and disposed at an angle with respect to one another, said plate portion having a first hole therein and a second hole therein which is disposed intermediate said first hole and said bend, said elongate plate portion having a longitudinal axis;

a strut screw disposed through said first hole and extending toward said blade portion, said strut screw having a longitudinal axis, said longitudinal axis of said elongate plate portion and said longitudinal axis of said strut screw forming a plane;

a top screw disposed through said second hole, said top screw extending angularly to one side of said strut screw plane.

Claim 14 (original): The bone plate assembly of Claim 13, wherein said second hole includes first and second counterbores extending into opposite sides of said plate portion about said second hole, said first and second counterbores allowing said top screw to be disposed through said second hole in a plurality of different angular positions with respect to said plate portion.

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Claim 15 (currently amended): The bone plate assembly of Claim 13, further comprising:
a third hole disposed intermediate said first and second holes; and
another top screw disposed through said third hole, said another top screw
extending angularly to another side of ~~said strut screw opposite said first side plane.~~

Claim 16 (original): The bone plate assembly of Claim 13, wherein said blade portion
includes a hole therein through which said strut screw is threadedly engaged.

Claims 17 - 40 (cancelled)

Claim 41 (previously presented): A bone plate, comprising:

a plate portion and a substantially straight blade portion extending from one
another at an angle and connected to one another at a bend, said blade portion including
insertion means for facilitating insertion of said blade portion into a bone, said bend having a
radius defined intermediate said plate portion and said blade portion, said radius dimensioned
such that, with said plate portion resting against an outer surface of the bone and said blade
portion extending into the bone, said radius fits closely adjacent the outside surface of the
bone.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The bone plate of Claim 41, wherein said radius is about
0.25 inches or less.